Action Comics

SUPERMAN

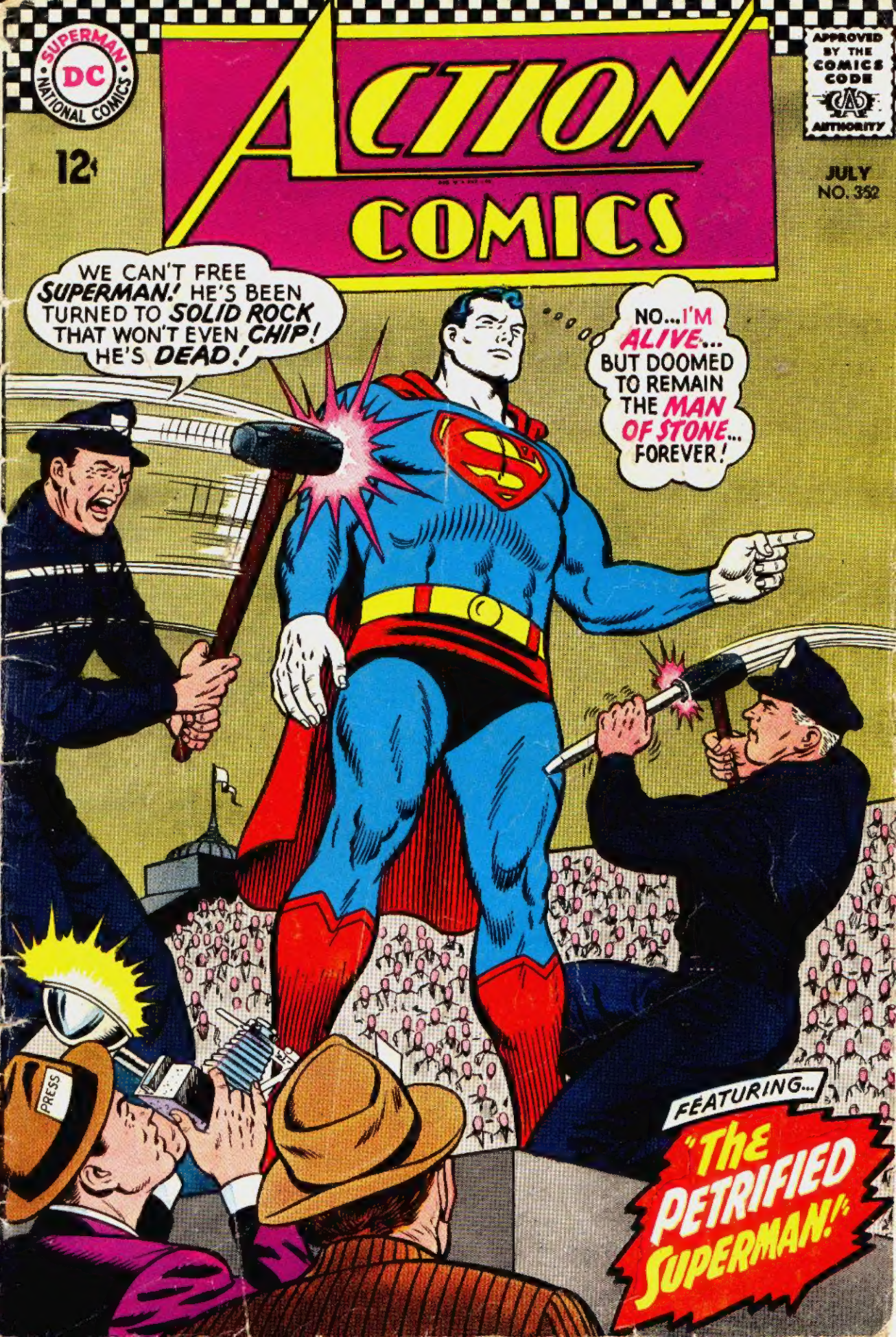
SUPERMAN SPEAKING!
BLAME THIS BLACKOUT ON SUPERMAN!
HE PROVED THE BUTTON THAT TURNED
ON ALL THE LIGHTS ON EARTH!

SUPERGIRL

Batman!
Batman!
BIG TROUBLE for BATMAN!

ATOM

DINOSAURS


SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
JULY
NO. 352
WE CAN'T FREE SUPERMAN! HE'S BEEN TURNED TO SOLID ROCK THAT WON'T EVEN CHIP! HE'S DEAD!
NO... I'M ALIVE... BUT DOOMED TO REMAIN THE MAN OF STONE... FOREVER!
PRESS
FEATURING...
"THE PETRIFIED SUPERMAN!"

SUPERMAN
GROVEL, SUPERMAN... AND SUPER-SHOUT SO THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS WHO IS THE MASTER!
CAN THIS BE THE FAMOUS MAN OF STEEL, ON HIS KNEES, ADMITTING THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS GREATER? YES... IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN HAS JUST LOST THE TITLE TO HIS INVINCIBLE CHALLENGER. AND SUPERMAN TASTES THE BITTER ASHES OF DEFEAT AFTER—
"The VICTORY of ZHA-VAM!"
XONFJPC
ZHA-VAM IS THE GREATEST OF ALL SUPER-HEROES! I, SUPERMAN AM NOTHING COMPARED TO HIM!

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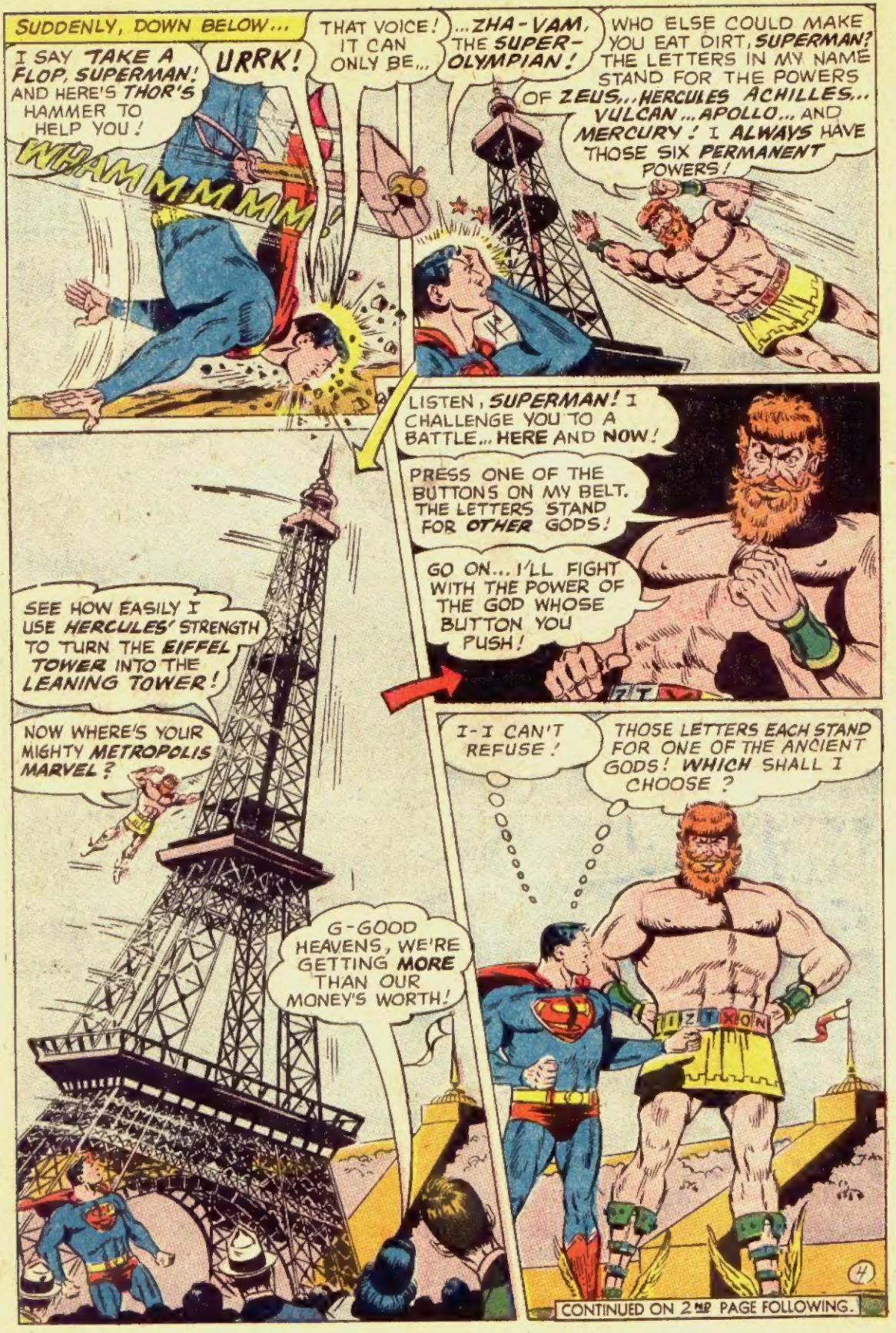
Printed in U.S.A.

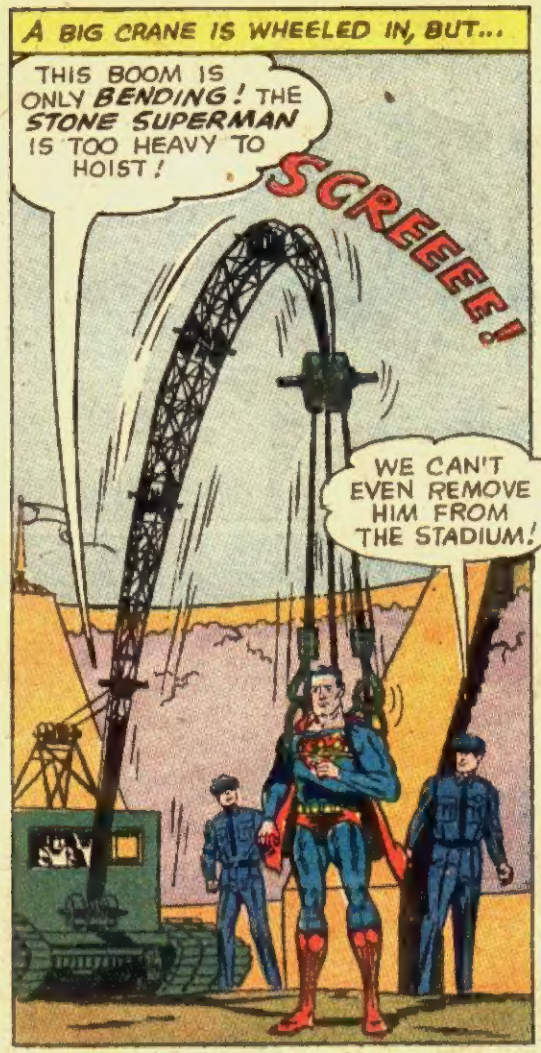
ACTION COMICS, No. 352, July, 1967. Published monthly; (semi-monthly, March) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd and Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Mort Weisinger, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription for twelve 32-page issues in the U.S., $1.75 including postage. Foreign, $3.50 in American funds. Canada, $2.00 in American funds; check or money order only. No subscriptions accepted without Zip Code. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1967. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

METROPOLIS STADIUM IS JAMMED ONE DAY, AWAITING A THRILLING EXHIBITION WHOSE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CHARITY!
HERE HE IS NOW... HE'LL GIVE US THE ANSWER!
GREETINGS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! FOR MY FIRST ACT, I'LL TAKE THIS 102-STORY SKY-SCRAPER, AND...
YEAH... HOORAY FOR... SUPERMAN!
LOOK! FULL-SIZED REPLICAS OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING AND THE GREAT PYRAMID... PLUS A PILE OF STEEL!
WHAT WILL SUPERMAN DO WITH THEM?
...GIVE IT A LIFT!
WOWIE! SUPERMAN IS BALANCING THE WHOLE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING ON HIS PINKY!
2

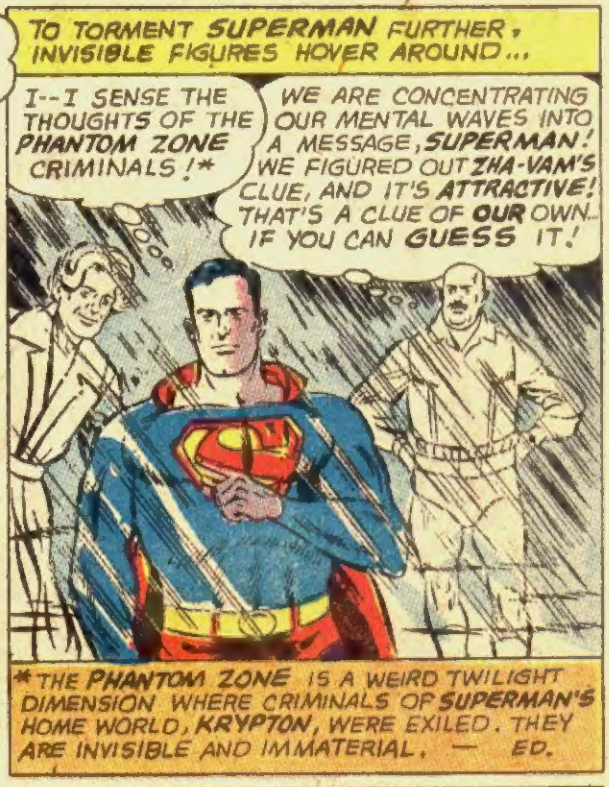
AFTER THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN SETS THE STRUCTURE DOWN...
FOR MY SECOND ACT, FOLKS, FOLLOW ME ON A TOUR THROUGH THE GREAT PYRAMID...
AND I MEAN THROUGH!
CRRRASH!
CRAZY! HE BORED THROUGH THAT PILE OF ROCK LIKE IT WAS MADE OF CREAM CHEESE!
NEXT, I'LL USE MY SUPER-"ERECTOR" SET TO BUILD A DUPLICATE OF A WORLD-FAMOUS STEEL STRUCTURE!
...DONE!
I CALL IT MY "INSTANT" EIFFEL TOWER.
I HAVE TO HAMMER IN 10,000 RIVETS! I'LL MAKE A COUNTDOWN AS I GO ALONG... BY THOUSANDS!
9,000...
8,000...
7,000...
WOW! AND IT ONLY TOOK HIM TEN SECONDS!
TAKE A BOW, SUPERMAN!
3


SUDDENLY, DOWN BELOW...
I SAY TAKE A FLOP, SUPERMAN! AND HERE'S THOR'S HAMMER TO HELP YOU!
URRK!
WHAMMMMM!
THAT VOICE! IT CAN ONLY BE...
...ZHA-VAM, THE SUPER-OLYMPIAN!
WHO ELSE COULD MAKE YOU EAT DIRT, SUPERMAN? THE LETTERS IN MY NAME STAND FOR THE POWERS OF ZEUS,.. HERCULES ACHILLES... VULCAN ...APOLLO... AND MERCURY! I ALWAYS HAVE THOSE SIX PERMANENT POWERS!
LISTEN, SUPERMAN! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A BATTLE... HERE AND NOW!
PRESS ONE OF THE BUTTONS ON MY BELT. THE LETTERS STAND FOR OTHER GODS!
GO ON... I'LL FIGHT WITH THE POWER OF THE GOD WHOSE BUTTON YOU PUSH!
SEE HOW EASILY I USE HERCULES' STRENGTH TO TURN THE EIFFEL TOWER INTO THE LEANING TOWER!
NOW WHERE'S YOUR MIGHTY METROPOLIS MARVEL?
G-GOOD HEAVENS, WE'RE GETTING MORE THAN OUR MONEY'S WORTH!
I-I CAN'T REFUSE!
THOSE LETTERS EACH STAND FOR ONE OF THE ANCIENT GODS! WHICH SHALL I CHOOSE?
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHICHEVER BUTTON I PRESS WILL GIVE HIM THE POWERS OF A MYTHOLOGICAL BEING OR HERO. HMM..."G" SHOULD STAND FOR "GLADIATOR" OR "GENIE", AND I DON'T THINK EITHER OF THEM IS TOO TOUGH FOR ME!
GREAT CHOICE, CHUM! HEE, HEE! YOU FORGOT THAT "G" CAN MEAN GORGON... SO I GAINED THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE GORGON SISTERS!
ULPS!... MEDUSA! AND ONE LOOK AT HER MAGICALLY TURNS ANYONE TO STONE... EVEN ME!
I WANT YOU TO SUFFER MANY OTHER HUMILIATIONS AT MY HANDS, SO YOU CAN REMOVE MY MEDUSA-SPELL IF YOU CAN GUESS THIS CLUE...
A LUCKY HORSESHOE CAN SET YOU FREE! GET IT? HAAAAA!
LUCKY HORSESHOE? WHAT KIND OF CLUE IS THAT? HE'S ONLY NEEDLING ME!
FROM TELSTAR, THE INCREDIBLE NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD!
FLASH BULLETIN! MAN OF STEEL HAS BEEN TURNED TO A MAN OF STONE!
SHORTLY, AS POLICE TRY TO AID SUPERMAN...
GREAT SCOTT,... HE'S BECOME... SOLID STONE!
MAYBE IT'S ONLY A SHELL OF STONE AROUND SUPERMAN. BUT WE CAN'T EVEN CRACK IT OR CHIP IT!
CRACK!
BANG!
5


A BIG CRANE IS WHEELED IN, BUT...
THIS BOOM IS ONLY BENDING! THE STONE SUPERMAN IS TOO HEAVY TO HOIST!
SCREEEE!
WE CAN'T EVEN REMOVE HIM FROM THE STADIUM!

A BIG STORM CAME UP! RUN FOR COVER!
"LUCKY HORSESHOE"... HOW CAN THAT CLUE FREE ME? CAN I SOLVE THE RIDDLE... OR AM I DOOMED TO DOUBLE FOR A STATUE FOREVER?

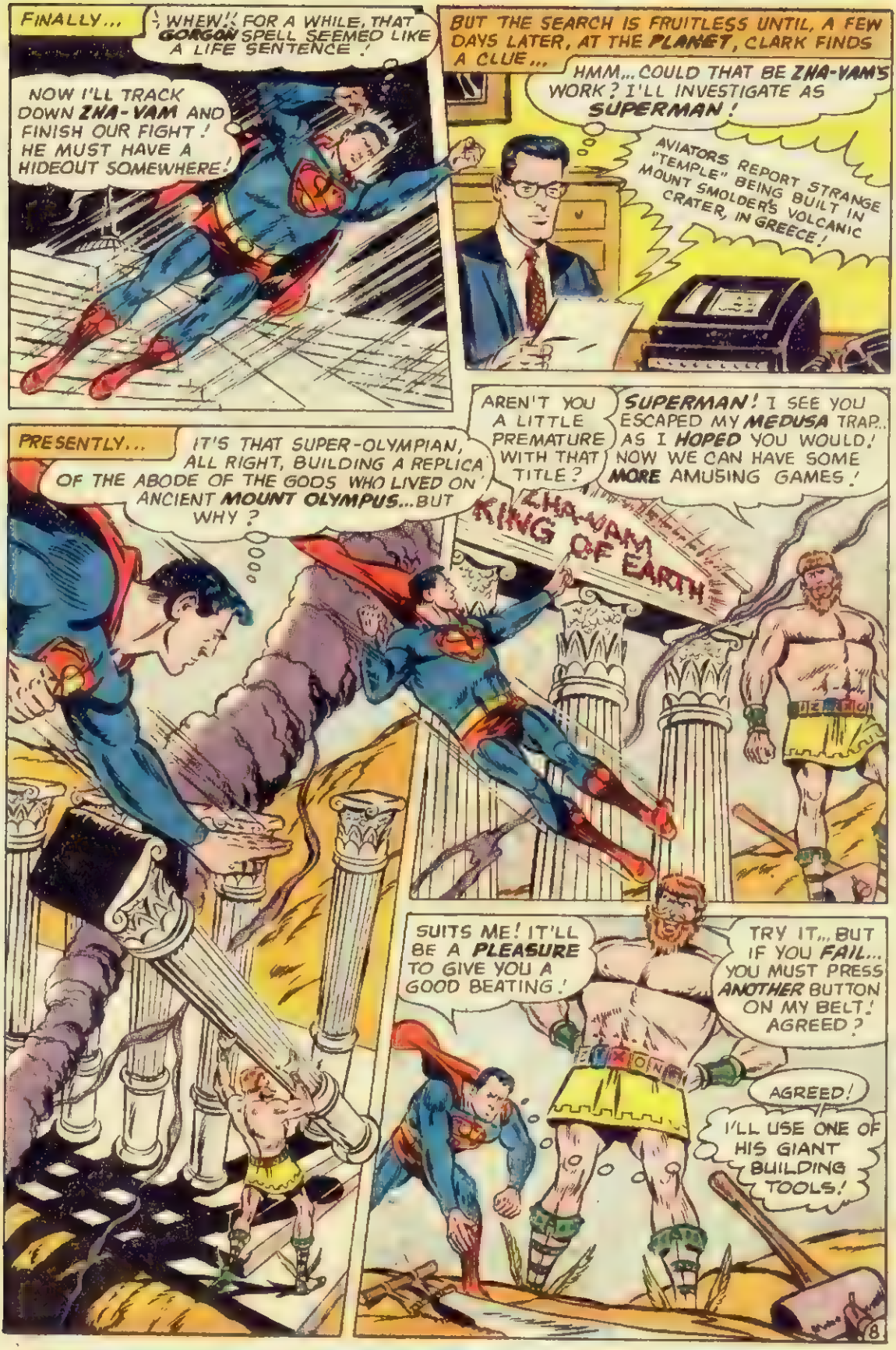

TO TORMENT SUPERMAN FURTHER, INVISIBLE FIGURES HOVER AROUND...
I--I SENSE THE THOUGHTS OF THE PHANTOM ZONE CRIMINALS!*
WE ARE CONCENTRATING OUR MENTAL WAVES INTO A MESSAGE, SUPERMAN! WE FIGURED OUT ZHA-VAM'S CLUE, AND IT'S ATTRACTIVE! THAT'S A CLUE OF OUR OWN... IF YOU CAN GUESS IT!

*THE PHANTOM ZONE IS A WEIRD TWILIGHT DIMENSION WHERE CRIMINALS OF SUPERMAN'S HOME WORLD, KRYPTON, WERE EXILED. THEY ARE INVISIBLE AND IMMATERIAL. — ED.

AND FINALLY, ANOTHER WORRY PLAGUES THE HELPLESS HERO!...
I-I JUST REMEMBERED THAT CLARK KENT, MY ALTER EGO, PROMISED LOIS LANE A STORY FOR HER WOMAN'S PAGE FEATURE. IT'S DUE SOON. IF I DON'T DELIVER, LOIS MAY GET IDEAS!
6

AND AT THE DAILY PLANET...
WHERE'S CLARK'S STORY? HMM... IF HE DOESN'T SHOW, THAT RADIO NEWS FLASH COULD MEAN HE'S SECRETLY SUPERMAN AND UNABLE TO RETURN TO HIS OTHER IDENTITY!
...MAN OF STEEL HAS BEEN TURNED TO MAN OF STONE!

WAIT!... I HAVE IT! "LUCKY HORSESHOE" MEANS A HORSESHOE MAGNET, WHICH HAS AN "ATTRACTIVE" FORCE! ZHA-VAM TURNED ME INTO LODESTONE, WHICH IS A NATURAL MAGNETIC MATERIAL!
AH! THAT THUNDERSTORM MAY BE THE BREAK I NEED!
JUST AS I HOPED! MY SUPER-STRONG MAGNETIC PULL ATTRACTED A LIGHTNING BOLT!
AH! THAT TEMPORARILY CHARGED MY THOUGHT-WAVES WITH ELECTRICAL ENERGY!
NOW I CAN SHOOT TELEPATHIC COMMANDS TO THE DAILY PLANET...
HE CRACKED ZHA-VAM'S RIDDLE! HE'S USING OUR TRICK OF SENDING FORTH CONCENTRATED MENTAL ENERGY!
THE THOUGHT IMPULSES SPEED TO THE PLANET OFFICE, WHERE THEY STRIKE THE KEYS OF AN ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER...
THE GIRLS SUPERMAN HAS MET ON OTHER WORLDS by CLARK KENT
.....
While journeying through space, Superman has encountered many remarkable women. There was Luma Lynai, an adult double of Supergirl...
KLIK KLAK... KLIK KLAK
AND BACK IN THE STADIUM, AS THE STORM INTENSIFIES!
I'VE ATTRACTED A BARRAGE OF LIGHTNING BOLTS, WHICH ARE SMASHING THE IRON MAGNETITE ATOMS AND TURNING ME BACK TO LIVING FLESH!
AND SHORTLY, WHEN LOIS LANE PICKS UP THE FINISHED PAGE...
SILLY ME, TO THINK CLARK MIGHT BE SUPERMAN!
P.S. Lois: I finished this feature but had to rush out to follow up the Stone Superman story.
Clark
7


FINALLY...
WHEW!! FOR A WHILE, THAT GORGON SPELL SEEMED LIKE A LIFE SENTENCE!
NOW I'LL TRACK DOWN ZHA-VAM AND FINISH OUR FIGHT! HE MUST HAVE A HIDEOUT SOMEWHERE!
BUT THE SEARCH IS FRUITLESS UNTIL, A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE PLANET, CLARK FINDS A CLUE...
HMM... COULD THAT BE ZHA-VAM'S WORK? I'LL INVESTIGATE AS SUPERMAN!
AVIATORS REPORT STRANGE "TEMPLE" BEING BUILT IN MOUNT SMOLDER'S VOLCANIC CRATER, IN GREECE!
PRESENTLY...
IT'S THAT SUPER-OLYMPIAN, ALL RIGHT, BUILDING A REPLICA OF THE ABODE OF THE GODS WHO LIVED ON ANCIENT MOUNT OLYMPUS... BUT WHY?
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE PREMATURE WITH THAT TITLE?
SUPERMAN! I SEE YOU ESCAPED MY MEDUSA TRAP... AS I HOPED YOU WOULD! NOW WE CAN HAVE SOME MORE AMUSING GAMES!
ZHA-VAM KING OF EARTH
SUITS ME! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU A GOOD BEATING!
TRY IT... BUT IF YOU FAIL... YOU MUST PRESS ANOTHER BUTTON ON MY BELT! AGREED?
AGREED!
I'LL USE ONE OF HIS GIANT BUILDING TOOLS!
8

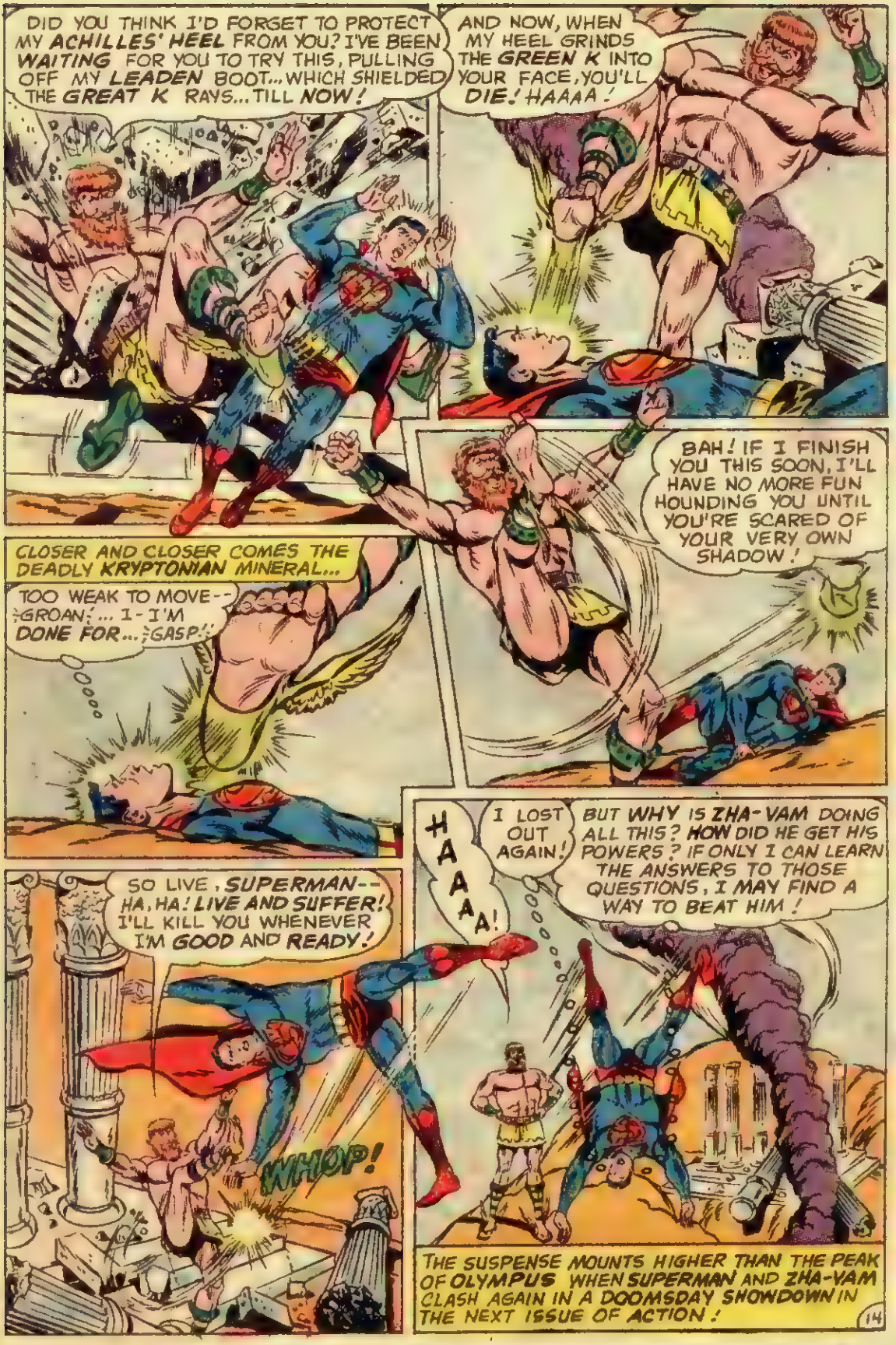
I HAVE A PLAN THAT WILL ELIMINATE HIS BELT! I'LL FLY AROUND IN BACK OF HIM AT SUPER-SPEED, AND BEFORE HE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED...
...I'LL SLICE HIS BELT IN TWO SO IT WILL FALL OFF HIM! THEN I'LL SNATCH IT UP!
SNICK!
BUT FATE IS UNKIND, AND SUPERMAN'S FINGER ACCIDENTALLY PRESSES ONE BUTTON...
MY BELT! IT CAME OFF!
RIGHT! NOW WATCH THIS DEMONSTRATION OF SUPER-PRESSURE, WHICH WILL CRUSH YOUR BELT INTO DUST!
UH...I-I FEEL SLEEPY... MUST REST...
THE FOOL! HE KNEW NOT THAT THE POWERS WOULD BOOMERANG ON ANYONE TAMPERING WITH MY BELT!
IRONICALLY, SUPERMAN DREAMS OF TRIUMPH OVER HIS OLYMPIAN FOE...
THUS, WHEN HE PRESSED "M" FOR MORPHEUS, THE GOD OF DREAMS... HE FELL ASLEEP! HMM...I WONDER WHAT HE'S DREAMING?
ZZ-ZZZ-ZZZ-Z-ZZ
HAH! NOW THAT I'VE CRUMBLED YOUR BELT TO DUST, YOU HAVE NO EXTRA MAGIC POWERS TO SAVE YOU! I'M SLAMMING YOU BACK THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER INTO THE PREHISTORIC PAST... AND GOOD RIDDANCE!
SOC!
ZZ-ZZZ-Z
9

AS SUPERMAN WAKENS...
UH?...OH, IT WAS ONLY A DREAM!
RIGHT, SUPER-IDIOT! SEE? YOU FAILED TO CRUSH MY BELT BEFORE THE POWERS OF MORPHEUS WORKED ON YOU! AND NOW...
...MY ZEUS LIGHTNING-BOLTS WILL MAGICALLY "WELD" BOTH HALVES OF MY BELT TOGETHER! THEN YOU MUST FULFILL THE BARGAIN WE MADE!
NOW YOU MUST PRESS ANOTHER BUTTON!
PEGASUS... PAN... PANDORA...PERSEUS... "P" SHOULD BE SAFE! IT ONLY STANDS FOR MINOR MYTHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS!
HA, HA! "P" STANDS FOR PLUTO, GOD OF THE NETHER WORLD! HIS CAP OF DARKNESS KEPT PEOPLE FROM SEEING HIM ... BUT I'LL USE IT SO NO ONE CAN SEE ANYTHING!
I GOOFED AGAIN!
IN MOMENTS, THE WHOLE WORLD IS ENGULFED IN A CLOUD OF INKY BLACKNESS!
DAY HAS TURNED TO NIGHT!
EEEAAA... IT'S PITCH BLACK ALL OVER!
SOMETHING HAS EXTINGUISHED EVERY LIGHT... WE CAN'T SEE A THING!
EVEN THE MOON AND STARS HAVE BEEN BLOTTED OUT!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

AS A SHOUT FROM ZHA-VAM'S HERCULEAN LUNGS REVERBERATES AROUND EARTH...
ZHA-VAM SPEAKING.
BLAME THIS BLACKOUT ON SUPERMAN! HE PRESSED THE BUTTON THAT TURNED OFF ALL THE LIGHTS ON EARTH!
BUT HOW COULD ONE BUTTON SHUT OFF ALL ELECTRIC LIGHTS ?
THOSE LOGS ARE BURNING... BUT THE FIRE IS PITCH BLACK!
ONLY A LONG-LASTING MAGIC LIGHTNING-BOLT OF ZEUS CAN FURNISH US WITH LIGHT! NOW, SUPERMAN... GROVEL AT MY FEET AND BEG ME TO LIFT THE SHROUD OF DARKNESS!
I-I HAVE NO CHOICE!
PLEASE, ZHA-VAM... REMOVE THE CLOUD!
I'LL CONSIDER IT! BUT FIRST... WHO IS THE GREATEST OF ALL HEROES? ANSWER, WORM!
SUPER-SHOUT THE ANSWER I WANT, SUPERMAN! LET THE WORLD HEAR YOU!
ZHA-VAM IS THE GREATEST OF ALL SUPER-HEROES! I, SUPERMAN, AM NOTHING COMPARED TO HIM!
YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY, SUPERMAN, SO I'LL REMOVE THE CAP OF DARKNESS AND LET LIGHT RETURN TO THE WORLD! SO LONG! BUT I'LL BE BACK! HA, HA!
AND I'D BETTER BE READY!

WHEN THE MAN OF STEEL RETURNS TO METROPOLIS...
I WILL...SOMEHOW! I MUST!
POOR SUPERMAN! REMEMBER WHEN HE WAS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN?
IF HE CAN'T HANDLE ZHA-VAM, WHO CAN?
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN UNABLE TO STOP ZHA-VAM!
THERE'S ONE HOPE! I'LL FLY TO MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE AND USE MY SUPER-COMPUTER TO FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT ZHA-VAM!
INSIDE THE MIGHTY ARCTIC STRONGHOLD...
I'LL FEED A LIST OF ZHA-VAM'S POWERS... THE ONES I KNOW... INTO THE MACHINE... THEN ASK WHICH COULD BE HIS DOWNFALL!
ACHILLES? OF COURSE! HE WAS INVULNERABLE EXCEPT FOR HIS HEEL! SINCE ZHA-VAM HAS ACHILLES' POWER, HE MUST HAVE THE SAME WEAKNESS!
ZHA-VAM CAN BE DEFEATED THROUGH HIS POWER OF ACHILLES!
ZHA-VAM, LISTEN! I WANT TO PRESS ANOTHER BUTTON... ONE IN THE BACK OF YOUR BELT!
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON YET? WELL, BE MY GUEST!
I DON'T HAVE TO, BUT I'LL PRETEND TO DO IT!
KING OF
LATER...
NOW I'M READY FOR HIM, WITH WHAT I FIXED UP IN MY SUPER-LAB! I ONLY HOPE I CAN TRICK HIM INTO LETTING ME GET AT HIS ACHILLES' HEEL! HE'S PROBABLY BACK AT HIS TEMPLE!

BUT SUPERMAN MAKES A SURPRISE MOVE...
NOW THAT I'M IN BACK OF HIM, I CAN SHOVE HIM INTO THAT MARBLE PILLAR WITH SUPER-FORCE!
THAT BROUGHT DOWN PART OF THE TEMPLE... ON HIM! NOW, BEFORE HE CAN GET UP...
...I'LL QUICKLY JAB THIS RING-NEEDLE INTO HIS VULNERABLE HEEL! THE CHEMICAL I SMEARED ON THE NEEDLE WILL PUT HIM INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
FIRST, I MUST YANK THE BOOT OFF AND EXPOSE HIS ACHILLES' HEEL!
BUT THE MAN OF MIGHT MEETS A STAGGERING SHOCK!
HA, HA! SURPRISE, SUPERMAN
G-GREAT STARS! UNDERNEATH THE BOOT IS A COVERING OF GREEN KRYPTONITE...GASP!... ITS RAYS ARE DEADLY TO ME!
13


DID YOU THINK I'D FORGET TO PROTECT MY ACHILLES' HEEL FROM YOU? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO TRY THIS, PULLING OFF MY LEADEN BOOT... WHICH SHIELDED THE GREAT K RAYS... TILL NOW!
AND NOW, WHEN MY HEEL GRINDS THE GREEN K INTO YOUR FACE, YOU'LL DIE! HAAAA!
BAH! IF I FINISH YOU THIS SOON, I'LL HAVE NO MORE FUN HOUNDING YOU UNTIL YOU'RE SCARED OF YOUR VERY OWN SHADOW!
CLOSER AND CLOSER COMES THE DEADLY KRYPTONIAN MINERAL...
TOO WEAK TO MOVE-- GROAN!... I-I'M DONE FOR... GASP!
SO LIVE, SUPERMAN-- HA, HA! LIVE AND SUFFER! I'LL KILL YOU WHENEVER I'M GOOD AND READY!
WHOP!
HAAAA!
I LOST OUT AGAIN!
BUT WHY IS ZHA-VAM DOING ALL THIS? HOW DID HE GET HIS POWERS? IF ONLY I CAN LEARN THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS, I MAY FIND A WAY TO BEAT HIM!
THE SUSPENSE MOUNTS HIGHER THAN THE PEAK OF OLYMPUS WHEN SUPERMAN AND ZHA-VAM CLASH AGAIN IN A DOOMSDAY SHOWDOWN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ACTION!
14

SUPERGIRL

IN THIS IMAGINARY TALE, A RED KRYPTONITE EFFECT HAS ROBBED LINDA (SUPERGIRL) DANVERS OF HER POWERS. SHE THEN MARRIED JIMMY OLSEN. BUT NOW THAT HER POWERS HAVE RETURNED, LINDA WONDERS HOW JIMMY WILL LIKE HAVING A SUPER-WIFE. YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU READ...

JIMMY OLSEN'S TWO BRIDES!

...DO NOT TAKE THE HANDSOME YOUTH BACK TO THE SURFACE-WORLD, FLYING GIRL! HE IS **MINE!**

NO, HE ISN'T! JIMMY'S GOING TO BE **MY** HUSBAND!

POOR **SUPERGIRL** DOESN'T KNOW I'M ALREADY MARRIED TO LINDA LEE! IF SHE FINDS OUT, IT'LL BREAK HER HEART! **WHY** MUST I BE SO **IRRESISTIBLE** TO **ALL** WOMEN!

A HALL OF FAME CLASSIC

ONE MORNING, ON AN **IMAGINARY** DAY (WHICH MAY OR **MAY NOT** EVER HAPPEN), LINDA WATCHES JIMMY FROM AFAR WITH SUPER-VISION...

SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL GET INTO TROUBLE, AS USUAL! THEN I'LL SWITCH TO **SUPERGIRL**...

...AND RESCUE HIM! AFTER HE LEARNS THAT A **SUPER-GIRL** EXISTS, AS **SUPERGIRL** I'LL TELL HIM I LOVE HIM! THEN, WHEN HE FINDS OUT **BOTH SUPERGIRL** AND LINDA ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THE SHOCK WON'T BE SO BAD!*

* THIS STORY WAS FIRST PUBLISHED BEFORE **SUPERGIRL'S** EXISTENCE WAS PUBLICLY REVEALED.—Ed.

PRESENTLY, SHE SEES...

PERRY WANTS AN ARTICLE ON THIS FAIR, WHICH IS CLOSED DOWN BECAUSE OF ITS UNSAFE EQUIPMENT! -GOSH, THIS **SUPERMAN RIDE** LOOKS LIKE FUN! I'LL TURN IT ON AND ENJOY MYSELF!

MOMENTS LATER, LINDA SWIFTLY CHANGES TO THE DYNAMIC **GIRL OF STEEL**...

OH-OH! THE WIRES HOLDING THE **SUPERMAN** FIGURE THAT JIMMY IS RIDING HAVE SNAPPED!

MEANWHILE, AT THE FAIR...

HUH? THAT'S STRANGE! I'M FLYING **WAY** UP INTO THE SKY, JUST AS IF I WAS ASTRIDE THE **REAL SUPERMAN!** WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THEN...

ULP! THE FIGURE BROKE LOOSE, AND N-NOW IT'S **FALLING!** I'D BETTER USE MY WATCH TO SIGNAL FOR **SUPERMAN'S** HELP... NO, IT'S NOT NECESSARY! HERE HE COMES NOW! -GASP!- IT ISN'T **HIM!!**

IT'S...A **GIRL!** A **SUPERGIRL!** SHE CAN **FLY!** SH-SHE'S SAVING ME JUST THE WAY **SUPERMAN** WOULD! -THIS IS--GULP! IMPOSSIBLE!

HI, JIMMY! GLAD TO MEET YOU!

2

AFTER THE **GIRL OF STEEL** SAFELY LANDS JIMMY...

I'M **SUPERGIRL**, FROM THE PLANET **KRYPTON!** I'M **SUPERMAN'S** "SECRET EMERGENCY WEAPON"! SINCE YOU'RE HIS PAL, I'M SURE **YOU** CAN BE TRUSTED NEVER TO REVEAL MY EXISTENCE TO ANYONE!

GASP!

WAIT! THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! YOU'RE MUCH **YOUNGER** THAN **SUPERMAN!** HOW CAN **BOTH** YOU AND HE HAVE COME FROM **KRYPTON?** HE LEFT **KRYPTON** WHEN HE WAS A **BABY,** AND THE PLANET IMMEDIATELY BLEW UP!

"WHEN **KRYPTON** EXPLODED, BY SHEER LUCK A HUGE CHUNK OF THE PLANET WAS HURLED AWAY INTACT, WITH PEOPLE ON IT! **ARGO CITY** WAS ON THAT CHUNK, UNDER A WEATHERPROOF, PLASTIC DOME!"

"BUT THAT VERY NIGHT..."

GREAT SCOTT! **ARGO CITY** IS GLOWING... **GREEN!** THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WHICH DESTROYED **KRYPTON** IS CHANGING THE GROUND INTO **KRYPTONITE** --WHOSE RADIATIONS CAN KILL KRYPTONIANS!

WE'RE DOOMED, **ZOR-EL!**

"ZOR-EL, THE BROTHER OF **SUPERMAN'S** FATHER, JOR-EL, COVERED THE GROUND WITH A LAYER OF **LEAD** SHEET METAL TAKEN FROM HIS LAB!"

KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS CAN'T PIERCE LEAD! WE WILL **LIVE!**

"A FEW YEARS AFTERWARD, **ZOR-EL** AND HIS WIFE HAD A BABY GIRL, **KARA**--ME! BUT WHEN I GREW INTO GIRLHOOD..."

METEORS ARE SMASHING HOLES IN THE LEADEN SHIELD, RELEASING **KRYPTONITE** RADIATIONS, KARA! WE'RE ALL DOOMED...!

"MY PARENTS HAD SEEN **SUPERMAN** ON EARTH THROUGH THEIR **SUPER-SPACE TELESCOPE!** MOTHER HAD MADE ME A COSTUME LIKE **SUPERMAN'S,** AND I WAS SHOT TOWARD EARTH IN A ROCKET-SHIP, AS **ARGO CITY** PERISHED..."

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

REACHING EARTH, I BECAME MY COUSIN **SUPERMAN'S** SECRET EMERGENCY WEAPON! -- SEEING YOU IN DANGER NOW, I SAVED YOU, EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT REVEALING MY EXISTENCE TO YOU!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL NEVER BETRAY YOUR CONFIDENCE!

I KNOW YOU WON'T! I ADMIRE **EVERYTHING** ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE SMART, CUTE, AND LOADS OF FUN! JUST THE KIND OF MAN I'D LIKE FOR A **HUSBAND!** - BYE, JIMMY!

JEEPERS! SHE PRACTICALLY ADMITTED SHE **LOVES ME!**

HOUSE OF

GOLLY, WHAT A GIRL! SHE'S NOT ONLY **PRETTY,** BUT SUPER-POWERFUL, TOO! HM-MM! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I WOULD NOT HAVE MARRIED LINDA, IF I'D MET **SUPERGIRL** FIRST!

RETURNING HOME, **SUPERGIRL** CHANGES BACK TO LINDA! LATER THAT EVENING...

ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPEN TODAY, HONEY?

UH--NOT ESPECIALLY!

LINDA ISN'T SUPER-POWERFUL, BUT SHE'S THE SWEETEST WIFE ANY FELLOW EVER HAD!

BLESS HIM! THE DARLING'S KEEPING HIS PROMISE AND NOT REVEALING **SUPERGIRL'S** EXISTENCE, EVEN TO HIS OWN WIFE! I'M **GLAD** HE CAN BE TRUSTED WITH SUCH A TERRIBLY IMPORTANT SECRET!

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...

HAVE FUN BOWLING WITH THE BOYS, TONIGHT, SWEETHEART!

I SURE WILL, LINDA DEAR!

AN INSTANT AFTER SHE CLOSES THE DOOR...

EXIT LINDA... ENTER **SUPERGIRL!** NOW TO BE **MY OWN COMPETITION** FOR JIMMY'S LOVE!

SHORTLY...

I--CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU, JIMMY! I ADORE YOU! PLEASE MARRY ME!

WHAT...?!

GOLLY... **SUPERGIRL'S** SO IN LOVE WITH ME IT WOULD BREAK HER HEART TO FIND OUT I'M **ALREADY** MARRIED TO LINDA LEE!

I'LL STALL HER!

ER--BEFORE I CAN ANSWER THAT, I'LL HAVE TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

FINE! I SUGGEST WE ADVENTURE TOGETHER ON ANOTHER WORLD, SO WE CAN GET BETTER ACQUAINTED!

SWIFTLY BUILDING A **SPACE-GLOBE**, THE **GIRL OF STEEL** FLIES JIMMY TO ANOTHER PLANET...

A WEIRD CITY... IN RUINS... BELOW, OVER-GROWN BY THE JUNGLE!

AS THE DUO FROM EARTH EXPLORES THE ALIEN CITY TOGETHER, SUDDENLY...

SAVE ME, **SUPERGIRL!** HE'S PLAYING WITH ME LIKE A HUMAN YO-YO!

DON'T WORRY, JIMMY! I'LL SAVE YOU! I WON'T LET THAT NASTY MONSTER HARM MY FUTURE HUSBAND!

AT SUPER-SPEED, **SUPERGIRL** PICKS UP A WEIRD STATUE AND HURLS IT PAST THE GROTESQUE CREATURE...

GOOD! I'VE STARTLED THE **THING** INTO DROPPING JIMMY!

QUICKLY PLACING JIMMY BACK INSIDE THE **SPACE-GLOBE**, THE **GIRL OF STEEL** FLIES OFF WITH HIM.

NOW TO SPEED BACK TO OUR OWN WORLD! I'M SORRY THAT MONSTER FRIGHTENED JIMMY!

SOON, ON EARTH...

THINK OVER MY PROPOSAL, JIMMY! REMEMBER, IF YOU BECOME MY HUSBAND, I'LL PROTECT YOU ALWAYS!

SHE'S GOT **EVERYTHING!** I'D MARRY HER IN A MINUTE... BUT I'VE **ALREADY** GOT A WIFE!

WHEN JIMMY RETURNS HOME...

I HOPE YOU LIKE THIS CAKE I'VE BAKED FOR YOU, DARLING!

TWO WONDERFUL GIRLS... EACH MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME! GOSH, I DON'T WANT TO BREAK THE HEART OF **EITHER** OF THEM!

LOVE TO JIMMY

NEXT DAY, ASSIGNED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THE **PURPLE - STONE NATIONAL PARK**, JIMMY VISITS IT...

NO ONE'S WATCHING! I'LL RUN FORWARD, AND PEEK INTO THE PIT, BEFORE THE GUARD NOTICES! THIS WILL MAKE A GREAT SCOOP!

BOTTOMLESS PIT WARNING
KEEP BEHIND RAILS

BUT THEN...

AWP! I T-TRIPPED!... I'M FALLING DOWN... DOWN... WOULD SUMMON **SUPERMAN**... BUT I'M ... BLACKING OUT...

MEANWHILE, AT THE PIT'S BOTTOM, IN A COLOSSAL CAVERN WHICH IS PEOPLED BY A SUB-EARTH CIVILIZATION...

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, **QUEEN TANIA!** YOU **MUST** MARRY ME, YOUR PRIME MINISTER! REFUSE, AND LIKE THE OTHER FOOLS WHO DARED OPPOSE ME, YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A SHAPELESS BLOB BY THIS **PUNISHMENT JEWEL** I ALONE POSSESS!

TRAITOR! WHAT YOU REALLY DESIRE IS THE POWER OF MY **THRONE!** AFTER THE WEDDING, YOU WOULD OPPRESS THE CAVERN PEOPLE! BUT YOUR PLOT WILL **FAIL!**

AN ANCIENT PROPHECY FORECAST THAT TREACHERY SUCH AS YOURS WILL BE FOILED BY A HANDSOME YOUTH FROM THE SURFACE-WORLD! I AWAIT MY RESCUER!

THE PROPHECY LIES!

DOWN, DOWN FLOATS THE YOUNG REPORTER...

WHAT LUCK! I'VE COME TO! MY FALL IS BEING BRAKED BY A POWERFUL UP-DRAFT OF AIR!

SHORTLY, AS JIMMY GENTLY ALIGHTS AT THE PIT'S BOTTOM...

;GASP!;--SEE! MY DELIVERER HAS ARRIVED FROM THE SURFACE-WORLD AS PROPHECIED!

ACCURSED MEDDLER! THE RAY FROM THIS **PUNISHMENT-JEWEL** WILL MAKE YOU SUFFER A GHASTLY FATE!

AS HER SUPER-VISION DETECTS HER HUSBAND'S PERIL, LINDA CHANGES TO **SUPERGIRL** AND STREAKS DOWN INTO THE CAVERN...

;CHOKE;--TH-THAT AWFUL RAY HAS TURNED JIMMY INTO A...**BLOB!!**

UNNOTICED, **SUPERGIRL** MELTS THE JEWEL WITH HER **HEAT VISION**, DESTROYING ITS EFFECT ON JIMMY...

¡GASP!!— IT... IT IS **MELTING!** IMPOSSIBLE!

THE SURFACE-WORLD YOUTH'S MIGHT IS GREATER THAN YOURS, **DAGLAR!** BEHOLD! HE IS REGAINING HIS NATURAL FORM!

NEXT, THE HIDDEN **SUPERGIRL** USES HER SUPER-BREATH TO PUSH **DAGLAR** AGAINST A ROCK, SO THAT HE BECOMES DAZED...

I DESTROYED THE JEWEL BEFORE THE EFFECT OF ITS RAY ON JIMMY BECAME **PERMANENT!**

WONDROUS YOUTH, I KNOW NOT HOW YOU DID IT, BUT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED **ANOTHER** MARVEL!

NEVER LEAVE ME, WONDROUS ONE! WED ME! YOU WILL SIT BESIDE ME ON MY THRONE!

WHY, THAT HUSSY! SHE'S TRYING TO STEAL MY HUSBAND! QUEEN OR NO QUEEN, SHE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH **THAT!**

ULP!

STREAKING IN, **SUPERGIRL** SNATCHES AWAY JIMMY, THEN...

SORRY, I SAW HIM FIRST!

IMAGINE! I'M LOVED BY THREE SENSATIONAL GALS! **WOW!**

FAREWELL, MARVELOUS YOUTH...

WHEN THEY REACH THE SURFACE-WORLD...

PLEASE MARRY ME, JIMMY! LET ME PROTECT YOU, ALWAYS!

THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR! IT'S GOT TO STOP **NOW!** I MUST BE FAIR TO LINDA!

FORGET ME, **SUPERGIRL!** I MUST NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

V-VERY WELL, GOODBYE!

WHAT A TWIST! JIMMY DOESN'T LOVE ME AS "**SUPERGIRL!**"

POOR KID! I CARE A LOT FOR HER! IN FACT, **TOO** MUCH! BUT SHE'LL HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT ME!

THAT NIGHT, AS LINDA DOES SOME MENDING...

}CHOKE{--IF ONLY I HAD MADE HIM LOVE ME AS **SUPERGIRL**... THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO EASY TO TELL HIM I'M **BOTH** GIRLS!

LINDA, YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO ME! I DON'T DESERVE IT!-THERE'S SOMETHING I **MUST** CONFESS!

I'VE MET ANOTHER GIRL--A **SUPERGIRL!** I LOVE **YOU**-BUT WHEN I'M WITH **HER**, I-I CAN'T HELP THINKING WHAT A SWELL WIFE **SHE'D** MAKE! I FEEL LIKE A SKUNK!

WONDERFUL!

TURN AROUND... JIMMY!

AS JIMMY OBEYS, BEFORE HIS EYES, LINDA USES SUPER-SPEED TO REMOVE HER BROWN WIG AND SWITCH TO HER COSTUME, CHANGING TO HER OTHER IDENTITY!

GREAT SCOTT! MY OWN WIFE IS... LINDA, YOU'RE... **SUPERGIRL!** OOLP!

HE'S FAINTING!!

AFTER JIMMY REVIVES, AND HIS **WIFE OF STEEL** EXPLAINS EVERYTHING...

I'M M-MARRIED TO A **SUPERGIRL!** WOW! TERRIFIC! **TERRIFIC!!**

THANK GOODNESS I BROKE THE NEWS TO HIM GRADUALLY! OTHERWISE, THE SHOCK **MIGHT** HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH!

YES, THIS STORY HAD A **HAPPY** ENDING, BUT REMEMBER, THIS HAS ONLY BEEN AN **IMAGINARY TALE**, AND MAY **NEVER** HAPPEN! AND BESIDES, LUCY LANE IS STILL AROUND!

The End

THE SHOUTS HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD...

HATE BATMAN!
KILL BATMAN!

THE BLOCKBUSTER--
THE FURY-FILLED FOE THAT IS
"TOO TOUGH for BATMAN"!!
GOES ON THE RAMPAGE AGAIN!

ON SALE JUNE 6th

Dear Editor: I thought you might like to know about an amazing "L.L." The "World's Finest" PooL PLayer (also known as pocket biLLiards) is named Luthor Lexedor! Does his name remind you of anybody we know? —Peter Haag, Trenton, N.J.

(If you mean a certain villainous character who is as bald as a billiard ball, the answer is yes.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: Four friends and I have formed an instrumental group. We have decided to name it after one of your super-heroes, or something like that. Do you have any suggestions?

—George Oldziey, Westwood P.O., N.J.

(That depends on how well you play. If you're the best, you could call yourselves the World's Finest Team, after Superman and Batman. But if you're not so good, you could be the Inferior Five.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I've just read ACTION 348, and all I can say is, how can you be so cruel? Surely Supergirl could have been a little more kind to her robot-helper, Kara. After all, she *was* a present. Besides, if she had had human emotions, she probably would have cried when Supergirl got angry with her for going on patrol without her consent. I felt sorry for poor Kara. You probably won't print this, because you know I'm right.

—Jeanie Logsdan, Grand Junction, Colo.

(Don't think us hardboiled, but aren't you wasting your sympathy on a piece of machinery? Supergirl's vital concern was to get rid of a "white elephant" that endangered her secret identity without insulting the people who sent it to her.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: After years of research, I believe I have discovered the nature of Kryptonite. It was formed during the freak explosion of the planet Krypton. It is an element that defies classification by Earth standards. Kryptonite atoms are unique. Each is composed of five particles: Energon particle, emitting a rare Q-energy; Absorbron particle, which absorbs Q-energy; Anti-Energon particle, emitting anti-Q-energy; and Anti-Absorbron particle. Each revolves around the other three. The result is an energy field caused by the constant attraction and repelling of the particles. The nucleus of the K-atom is a minute particle called an Energy Deltron. Trapped within the energy field, the Deltron emits Delta Rays. Yellow sunlight hardens the cells of Superman's body, making them impenetrable. D-Rays, capable of penetrating any normal material except lead, pass harmlessly through an ordinary person's body. But after entering Superman's body through the pores, they are trapped and attack his blood cells, breaking them down till the whole circulatory system deteriorates. If the Kryptonite source is removed, the cells automatically repair themselves, provided all the blood has not already been destroyed. Does this win me a subscription to one of your mags?

—Allen Hoover, Nashville, Tenn.

(Is THAT all you're after? We thought you were hoping to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, at least!—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I belong to a college sorority and one of the rules in our organization is that sorority sisters must have no secrets from each other. We have to take an oath to this effect. I know Linda Danvers belongs to a sorority at Stanhope College. Shouldn't she be forced to reveal her Supergirl identity to her sorority sisters?

—Evelyn Jones, Los Angeles, Calif.

(If you belong to a sorority which forces you to reveal your innermost secrets, we think you've made a poor choice. We believe no one should be subjected to such an invasion of their privacy.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I think Superman is the most fantastic thing imaginable. The idea of a meek, timid guy like Clark Kent becoming the mighty protector of justice who can fly, lift whole city blocks, and who is invulnerable to bullets, is just too ridiculous for words.

—Captain Nice, Big Town.

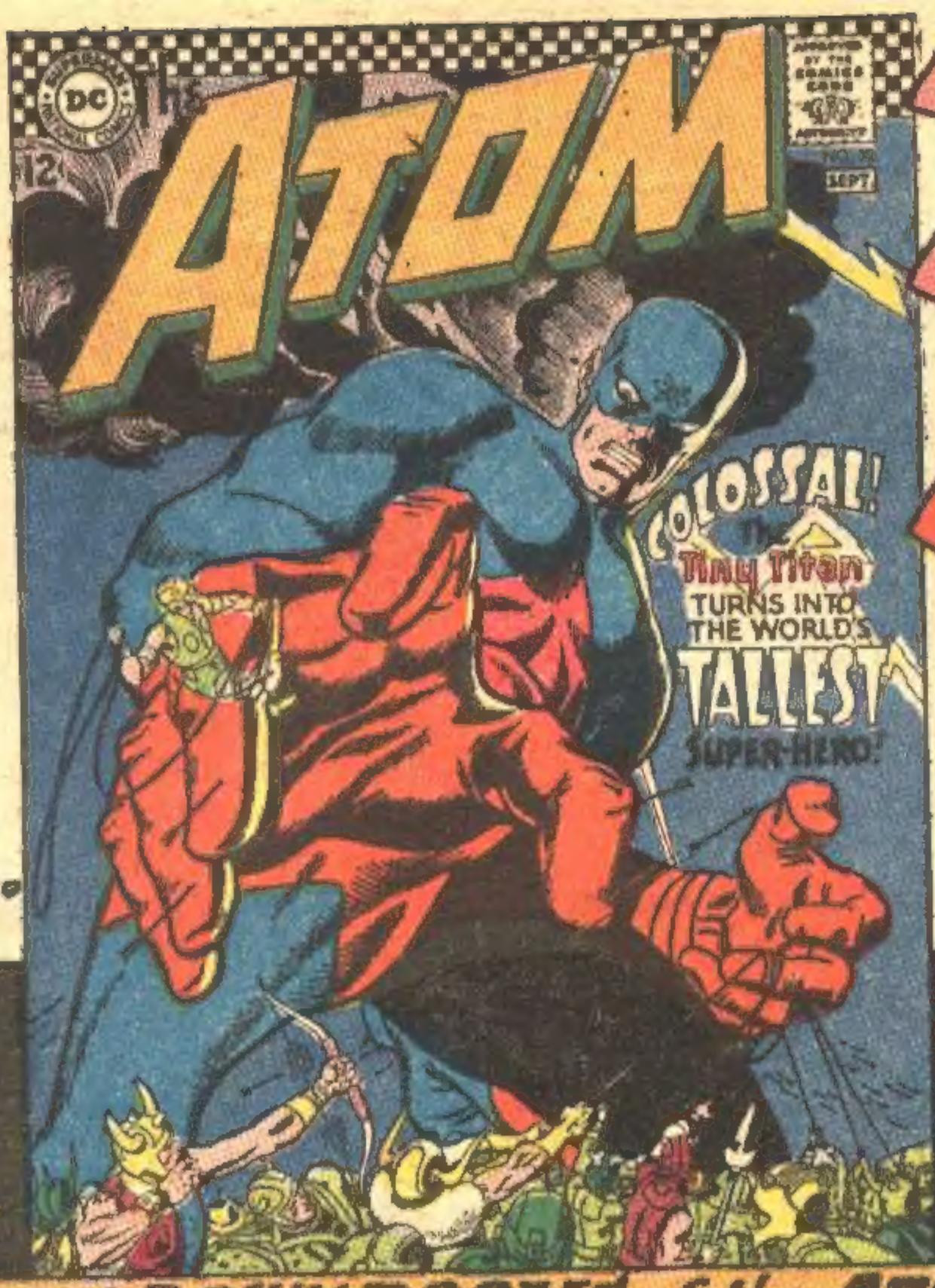
(We have a sneaking suspicion somebody's pulling our leg!—Ed.)

Now for some more suggestions for new titles for this page, so it won't be the same as that in SUPERMAN: Alan Abbey, Brooklyn, N.Y.—Relatively Speaking... Manuel Teijelo, Dayton, Ohio—Action Talk . . . Mark Bagby, McAlester, Okla. —Crimebusters' Comments.

Send all comments, preferably on a postal card, to METROPOLIS MAILBAG, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Please include your ZIP CODE!

UP-- UP-- SPRINGS The ATOM--

TO BATTLE A BAND OF BARBARIAN WARRIORS...



DOWN DOWN DOWN SHRINKS The ATOM--

IN THE MOST FURIOUS FIGHT OF HIS DC-CHECKERED CAREER!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

"The UP-and-DOWN DOOMS of the ATOM!"

ON SALE JUNE 1st

CAP'S HOBBY HINTS
HOW TO DO IT BETTER

KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS.
575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE $5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

GOSH! THIS HOLE IS TOO SMALL FOR MY MODEL PART TO FIT INTO!
THANKS TO- TIM CARTER FAIRFAX, VA.
6517
I'LL SHOW YOU A NEAT TRICK. GET ME A ROUND TOOTHPICK AND SOME GLUE.
HENRY BOLTHOFF
NOW, I'LL COVER THE TOOTHPICK, 3/4 OF THE WAY UP, WITH GLUE. BEFORE THE GLUE DRIES, I SPRINKLE SAND ON THE TOOTHPICK.
GLUE
THIS MAKES A DANDY SANDER TO GET INTO SMALL HOLES FOR ENLARGING THEM.

CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

DIRECT CURRENTS

The Old Electrician is back with another battery of super-charged stories, so jam-full of electrifying action that they're sure to deliver the biggest jolt since someone told Ben Franklin to go fly a kite! But you aren't here to read introductions, no matter how magnificent the prose it's written in. So, without further ado—on to the previews of coming attractions!

What does it take to kill SGT. ROCK of EASY COMPANY? The startling answer ranges across three wars, in another explosive tale erupting in the August OUR ARMY AT WAR, No. 183, which reaches the newsstands on June 1—"SERGEANTS DON'T STAY DEAD!" If you miss this battle blockbuster, you'll never forgive yourself!

For the first time in his DC-checkered career, THE ATOM gets the opportunity to fight foes as the WORLD'S TALLEST SUPERHERO—only to have his colossal size prove a HANDICAP! So down he shrinks to sub-standard size in "THE UP-AND-DOWN DOOMS OF THE ATOM"—in the September issue, No. 32, on sale June 1!

If you think BADGER is a baddie, wait'll you meet his kid-brother cut-up, BEASTLEY! The DALTONS and JAMES BOYS were angels compared to these two! When little BEASTLEY runs riot, everyone at BENEDICT ARNOLD HIGH trembles—but you'll shake with laughter at the beautiful baby contest which climaxes the September BOB HOPE, No. 106, on sale June 1!

He's back! Who? RED'S swinging brother, and this time he's got murder in his eye—because in his wild campaign to avenge RED'S death, this terrible-teen teams up with a human powerhouse of peril in "THE KOOK AND THE KILOWATT KILLER," the newest smasheroo, in September's CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 57, on sale June 1!

If you expect to see the SCARLET SPEEDSTER on the cover of the August FLASH—forget it! He's been tangling with GRODD, the SUPER-GORILLA, and now all that's left of him is his EMPTY UNIFORM—the amazing development that occurs when "GRODD PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON FLASH!" In issue No. 172, on sale June 6!

The BLOCKBUSTER is the one foe who has proved too tough for BATMAN—but not for BRUCE WAYNE! Imagine, then, the peril that faces the MASKLESS BATMAN when he comes to grips with the BRUTISH BEHEMOTH and discovers that his BRUCE face can no longer protect him! "THE BLOCKBUSTER GOES BAT-MAD," in the August issue, No. 194, on sale June 6!

"WHO DARES TO CHALLENGE THE 'ARSENAL'?" That's the cry (as well as the title of our action-filled adventure) that rings through a cringing city. And who DOES dare? You guessed it—the WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES, in the August DOOM PATROL, No. 113, on sale June 6! Also, another pulse-pounding installment of BEAST BOY'S life!

The world's WEIRDEST death-race is run off in the September TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED, No. 102! And there are two other entries romping close behind—"THE DOOMSDAY DRUM" and "BANG! BANG! YOU'RE DEAD"—mood-filled favorites, which will leave you gasping at the finish line! You can read 'em on June 6!